#### **PCT**

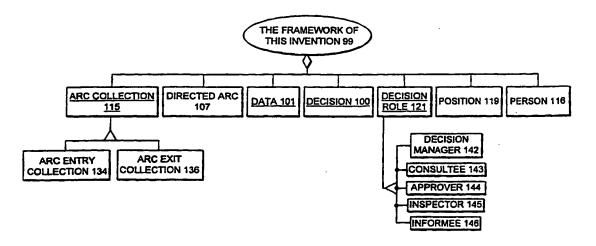
## WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION International Bureau



### INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6: (11) International Publication Number: WO 97/38386 G06F 17/60 A1 (43) International Publication Date: 16 October 1997 (16.10.97) (21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/05969 (81) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, (22) International Filing Date: 10 April 1997 (10.04.97) PT, SE). (30) Priority Data: **Published** 60/016,080 10 April 1996 (10.04.96) US With international search report. (60) Parent Application or Grant (63) Related by Continuation 60/016,080 (CIP) Filed on 10 April 1996 (10.04.96) (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: KONNERSMAN, Paul, M. [US/US]; 272 Ocean Avenue, Marblehead, MA 01945-3730 (74) Agent: WALPERT, Gary, A.; Fish & Richardson, P.C., 225 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110-2804 (US).

# (54) Title: COMPUTER-BASED SYSTEM FOR WORK PROCESSES THAT CONSIST OF INTERDEPENDENT DECISIONS INVOLVING ONE OR MORE PARTICIPANTS



#### (57) Abstract

A computer-based method and apparatus for the analysis, specification and support of work processes. The system is designed to support multiple interdependent decisions, at least some of which require collaboration among multiple participants (116). Work processes are modeled using an application framework (99) used to develop abstract, decision (100) process models. The decision (100) process models are used as a pattern to instantiate concrete process models that incorporate the work defined by the abstract process. The process model is then used to instantiate project models that incorporate the required work from the process. The project models are used to direct and guide the behavior of the participants (116) in the work process.